



NEWSLETTER

SPRING, 2017

Neighbourhood Plan

The first public consultation about the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Lewes has started and is scheduled to end on 21st June. The Plan is available on line at www.lewes4all.uk and members are encouraged to submit their comments on it to the Town Clerk, with a copy to the Society. This will enable us to take your views into account before submitting our response. Under current planning legislation it is important that the town has a Neighbourhood Plan as it becomes a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. An adopted Neighbourhood Plan, which only comes into force after assessment by the Planning Inspectorate and acceptance in a town referendum, also means that a higher proportion of monies raised under the Community Infrastructure Levy will be available for spending on infrastructure projects in the town.

Following a preliminary assessment of the draft Plan the Society is broadly content with its proposals, but will e-mail members with any specific points it believes they should be aware of when submitting their comments

Design

Whilst design is a subjective subject on which people often have different views, the Society believes that it is a factor that needs special consideration both in connection with buildings but also the public realm in Lewes. To that end it arranged a special conference for professional

people engaged with new developments to consider how better design could be achieved in the town. The conference was addressed by our President as well as two leading professionals from outside the town and the National Park Authority's Design Officer. She said that the National Park Authority is in the process of drafting a Design Guide and that consultation on it will take place next year. The Society has indicated that it will be happy to collaborate in the production of this Design Guide to ensure the special features of Lewes are reflected in it.

North Street Quarter

Demolition of the former Ironworks buildings is held up whilst archaeological investigations are taking place to enable Santon to satisfy one of the many planning conditions relating to the development. When demolition takes place, which may not be until the turn of the year, it will include Springman House in order to avoid two separate demolition contracts. Planning permission will be needed for the latter and the Society will wish to be satisfied that the replacement facilities for the Fire and Rescue Service on that site are satisfactory before agreeing to support it. In the meantime decisions should shortly be taken following consultation on the proposals for the Pells and Malling Fields area. Already the construction of a new skate park facility on Malling Fields is virtually complete.

FRIENDS OF LEWES

c/o Lewes Town Council Offices, Town Hall, High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2QS
enquires@friends-of-lewes.org.uk www.friends-of-lewes.org.uk

PRESIDENT: Baroness Kay Andrews of Southover OBE Registered Charity No. 258756

Other planning matters

At South Downs Road a revision to the approved application has been made which envisages not providing any commercial units but increasing the number of dwellings on the site by 24 to 104 in total. As the Society considers the whole site should be used for housing it supported the revision, particularly as it also results in an improvement to the design of the development. Representations from the Society about the signage and internally-illuminated signs originally proposed for the conversion of the former Lloyds bank building to a Cote restaurant resulted in revisions to the planning application which has now been approved.

Work has started on the conversion of the former Canon O'Donnell Hall to housing.

The erection of new apartments on the Vipers Wharf site has produced a better river frontage than existed previously.

Pavement parking

Pavement parking by delivery lorries in the High Street often causes congestion as well as a hazard to pedestrians. The Society responded positively to the County Council consultation about preventing this. Providing the regulations proposed are adopted and enforced the Society will then press the County Council to replace the tarmac surface in the pavements in the upper High Street with slabs so that the appearance of the street is fitting for a historic town like Lewes.

Pedestrian crossings

The pedestrian crossing in Church Lane, Malling, opposite the primary school, has now been completed. Discussions are taking place with the County Council about the provision of one between Houndean Rise and Montacute Road on the Brighton Road which will make it easier to cross this very busy road.

Trees

In March the Trees Committee planted nine new trees at the top of Abergavenny Road. These trees, a mixture of Alder, Field Maple, Himalayan Birch

and Wild Cherry, were chosen to be attractive to wildlife, since this can be a very good area for birds.



In March two new Elm trees, (*Ulmus New Horizon*), to replace those felled in the autumn because of Dutch Elm Disease, were planted at the top of St. Anne's Hill on the upper High Street. It took a lot of work by various workmen, over several days, to prepare the ground and to replace all the pavers afterwards. This replanting was funded by the Town and County Councils, a generous donation from Clare Stein, in memory of her brother Robert Watson, and the Society. We are now fund-raising towards replacing more of the Elms in this area: there were originally seven of them.



This summer the committee members are busy making site visits, arranging utility surveys and

consulting with residents and landowners, to prioritise suitable sites for planting more trees in November 2017.

Friends of Lewes Competition, Summer 2017

The competition for summer 2017 is: "In how many different places can you find the name "Friends of Lewes" and/or our logo, (current or previous versions), around Lewes?" To enter, number and list all of the examples of our name or logo which you can find and send the list by post, hand delivery or e-mail to the Society by the closing date of September 1st 2017.

- E-mail: enquiries@friends-of-lewes.org.uk
- Mail, or hand delivery: FOL Quiz 2017, Friends of Lewes, C/O Town Hall, High Street, Lewes, BN7 2QS

Don't forget to include your contact details: name, address, telephone number and/or e-mail address with your entry.



The prizes are: first prize of £40; second prize of £20; third prize of £10; possible bonus prize of £10 for an unusual example which the judges had not thought of.

Heritage Open Days 2017

A team from the Society is again in process of putting together the programme for this year's Heritage Open Days- from Thursday 7th to Sunday 10th September. Sponsorship has been attracted from the District & Town Councils, Adams & Remers (solicitors) and Mackellar Schwerdt (architects), so, once again the Society incurs no cost for organising this event, which now brings several thousand visitors to Lewes each year, and has become one of the town's major annual attractions.

However, we do need members' help, as volunteer stewards, especially for those buildings and walks which will be new to the programme: these include Fitzroy House, 'clocks' tours, and Trinity House on School Hill.

If you are interested in volunteering, then please email leweshod@gmail.com , or phone 01273 477447.

The leaflet of the local programme will be available from early July: also details on www.heritageopendays.org.uk: some events will require pre-booking.

For your diary

Thursday, September 14th

Wine and cheese evening for members.

7.30pm in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall.

LEWES HISTORY GROUP MEETINGS

Monday 12 June

Ruth Thomson - Lewes at the Pictures

Monday 10 July

Mary Burke - Tom Paine in Lewes